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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/603,081 | 06/25/2003 | Heinz-Joachim Belt | 037110.52388US | 1889 |
| 23911 | 7590 | 01/17/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| CROWELL & MORING LLP | | | LANGE, WAYNE A | |
| INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| P.O. BOX 14300 | | | 1754 | |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300 | | | | |

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/603,081 | BELT ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | 1754 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is indefinite as to where the end of the Markush group is. The word -- and -- should be inserted before "CF₃OCHF₂" in the last line to avoid this rejection.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2631856 in view of De Hart or EP 0384371 or JP 60-86195. FR '856 discloses the preparation of a gas mixture wherein gases to be mixed are passed to a mixing body 3 to which the various lines are connected, and then passed through a constant transfer volume 13 to the suction of a compressor 10. (See the English Abstract and Fig. 1 and the description thereof.) Constant transfer volume 10 in the process of FR '856 would be a static mixer. The difference between the process disclosed by FR '856, and that recited in applicants' claims, is that FR '856 does not disclose that the gas mixture should comprise at least one fluorinated hydrocarbon or ether. De Hart, EP '371 and JP '195 all disclose gas mixtures comprising fluorinated hydrocarbons, and teach

that uniformity of the compositions is a desirable attribute. (See col.1, lines20-31 and col. 9, lines 3-20 of De Hart; and the English Abstracts of JP '195 and EP '371. It would be obvious from De Hart or EP '371 or JP '195 to mix a gas composition comprising a fluorinated hydrocarbon according to the process of FR '856, since Fr '856 teaches that the process results in a gas mixture stable in composition, which is a desirable attribute for the compositions of the secondary references.

Claims 2-6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2631856 in view of De Hart or EP 0384371 or JP 60-86195 as applied to claims 1 and 7-12 above, and further in view of Mears et al. It would be further obvious from Mears et al to include SF₆ or nitrogen in the gas composition, since Mears et al teach that dielectric compositions comprising perfluorinated ethers and nitrogen or SF₆ are useful. (See the Abstract, col. 2, lines 25-50 and col. 5, lines 61-63.) Regarding claim 13, Mears et al teach in the Abstract that the gas has utility in high voltage coaxial lines.

The other references are made of record for disclosing gas compositions comprising fluorinated hydrocarbons.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wayne Langel whose telephone number is 571-272-1353. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Fridays from 8 to 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman, can be reached on 571-272-1358.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Wayne Langel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1754